

# The Boomer



Vol. 51, No. 1

459th Air Refueling Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve, Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

January 2006

**Services: First to  
arrive; last to leave**



# The Boomer

Vol. 51 No. 1

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## On the cover



**Tech. Sgt. Timothy Boykin, services specialist, 459 SVF, times wing members doing sit-ups during fit-to-fight testing. (Photo by Master Sgt. Shayne Sewell)**

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## COMMENTARY

### Looking back personally and professionally

#### Commander's Corner

**Col. (Sel.) Winona Cason**  
**459th Mission Support Group Commander**



**T**he holidays always inspire me to look back and take stock of my life, personally and professionally.

As I was reflecting back this year, I realize that I've just passed 21 years of service. Three of those years I was enlisted in the Air National Guard, nine of those years I was on active duty and I've now been in the Reserve for nine years. Every one of those experiences has contributed to what for me has been an incredibly rewarding military career. When I reflect back on those years, here's what I think about:

Thank you, senior enlisted corps, for teaching me how to become an officer. The only take-away I remember from officer training school was, "find a good senior NCO at your first duty station, grab him or her by the arm, and learn from them." That was absolutely the best advice I've had in my career. At my first duty station, senior NCOs got me on my training wheels with leadership. By the time I left that first duty station, I had an appreciation and respect for chain of command, something to this day I firmly believe in.

Thank you, NCOs, for your courage. My third duty station was Rhein Main Air Base, Germany. I was put in charge of the air terminal operations center (better known as the ATOC) at what was then one of the top three busiest aerial ports in the world. We were woefully undermanned, then were hit by PROVIDE COMFORT. We became a huge staging ground for airplanes delivering sup-

plies to the AOR. NCOs did the bulk of the heavy lifting on the flightline, to include getting cargo ready to go and loading it on the airplanes. I saw NCOs working 12-15 hours a day in freezing weather, with iced up equipment and new Airmen they hadn't yet had time to train. That mission was a success on the backs of the NCO corps, as is so often the case.

Thank you, Airmen, for your fresh outlook. New Airmen bring new views and new ideas on how to do things. As our future, you inspire us to want to do better and leave you an even better Air Force than the one in which we grew up.

Thank you, all former and current bosses. So many of you took chances on me, putting me into positions that I didn't feel ready for. You allowed me to grow into the positions, let me make mistakes and let me recover.

Thank you, fellow commanders. Your reward does not come in your paycheck; it comes when your team "gels," when they go out on a mission and just kick butt, when they smoke an inspection, when they totally turn a corner on a difficult issue that's been holding them back. Your reward comes when you re-enlist someone, when you attend one of your chief's induction ceremonies, when one of your junior officers is promoted to field grade.

Thank you, friends and family, and especially my new husband, who as a retired active duty chief master sergeant has for years been my best friend and mentor. Your words of encouragement, and sometimes kicks in the tail have kept me pointed in the right direction.

As a colonel select as of this writing, I thank all of you, because it's been those 21 years of all those things you have done that have helped me achieve this.



# Don't know the songs anymore

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Greg Havrilak  
*Wing Chaplain's Office*

Recently I received an XM satellite radio for my car. Since I openly confess to being a talk show junkie, my family was gracious to provide me with another medium to scan the airways for the latest news, commentary, politics, etc.

Listening intensely to a dialogue between two politicians over global warming is sufficiently innocuous to force my undivided attention to the highway, rendering a long road trip more palatable and safe. When I am not listening to talk shows, however, I enjoy tuning in to the oldies station; you know, the spot on your radio dial where you can listen to the great hits from the 60s and 70s – Beatles, Stones, Supremes, Dylan, etc.

When I thought about my predisposition for “oldies” music, I realized that I was no different than my parents, who, during my youth, forced me to listen to the big band and swing tunes from the 40s. To this day I can vividly recall my father driving me to school one cold winter morning, hearing on our car radio the song, “Louie, Louie” by the Kingsmen, and asking, “Have you figured out the words to that song yet?”

The real reason I listen to oldies music is based on the “comfort factor”—that is, I know the old tunes and their lyrics by heart and hearing them again and again makes me feel good. The new music on today’s airwaves sounds foreign to me. I simply don’t know the songs anymore, and when I have to listen to the new stuff, I certainly don’t feel good about it.

Could it be that, for some strange reason, I am stuck in a time warp? Or, am I simply being recalcitrant; unwilling to move on and grow a little, to try something new in life, be it music, art, food, or more importantly, to face my existential reality: who I am and what I do every day for a living.

Each of us, in our chosen fields of endeavor in the military, must guard against this ancient negative malady known as recalcitrance. We’ve got to see around the corner



and try new things, new ways of addressing old challenges. The Psalmist David wrote thousands of years ago, “Give me a new heart, O God, and renew a right (steadfast) spirit within me” (Psalm 50).

David’s faith in the transforming power of God is evident in his appeal for a “new spirit” or rehabilitation of himself into someone entirely new. We understand from scripture that God is predisposed to restore, rehabilitate, and recreate. David knew that being com-

placent, or satisfied with the status quo, might erode one’s confidence, self-respect, and success on the job. He asked God to renew a “right spirit” within him, so that his eyes, ears and heart would be open to fresh ideas, new methodologies, and new horizons to conquer.

As you face each month’s unit training assembly, you are repeatedly confronted by the demands of your job, the expectations of your supervisor, and your own personal goals. For some folks these demands are immutable: they rarely change.

For others, however, work site, shop and office demands consistently stretch their talents and abilities to the limit. By default most people in this category have no time for complacency, no room to be recalcitrant on the job. When new ways of doing old things are presented, they accept these new methodologies with eagerness and excitement.

In other words, my friends, you’ve got to be willing, as in my case, to listen to the new songs, to face the music, so-to-speak, enthusiastically and positively. Change is good; it can be a positive, constructive element in your life.

Just like the Psalmist David in his appeal to God for a new spirit, let us follow his example and open our minds and hearts to the creative newness that awaits us around the corner. By so doing we can avoid the pitfalls of recalcitrance and complacency, and, with God’s help, move forward in accomplishing our mission forthrightly and successfully. Blessings and Peace.

## FLIGHTLINE

### Question: What 2005 lessons have prepared you for 2006?



**Master Sgt. Willie Epperson, 459 AES**  
*“Have patience and walk in love. Remember, one bad situation can change your life.”*



**Tech. Sgt. Steven Brown, 459 RS**  
*“Not to procrastinate. Get it done right.”*



**Staff Sgt. Tracy McNamara, 459 CES**  
*“Not to stress about things that are not in my control.”*



## Holiday party marked end of 2005

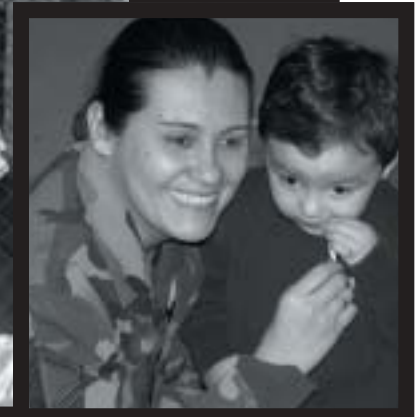
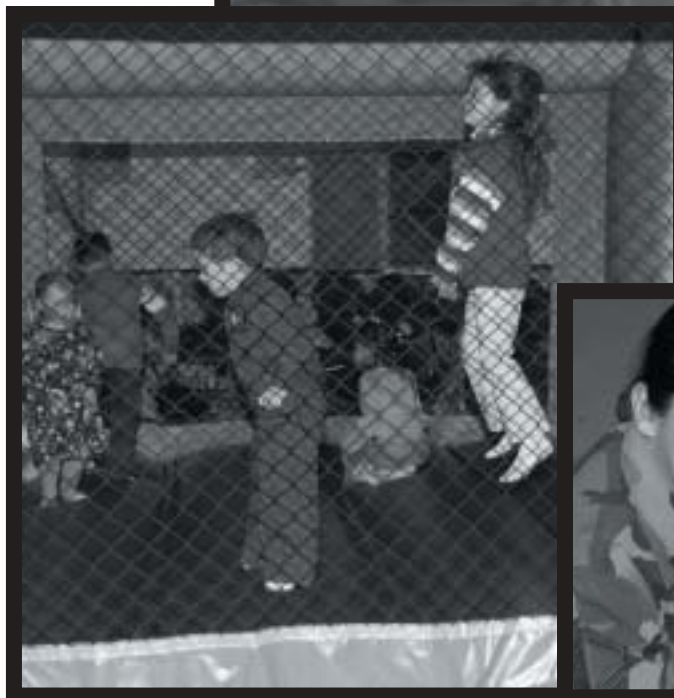


**By Capt. Nikki Credic**  
**Wing Public Affairs**

**T**he 459th Air Refueling Wing closed out 2005 with a holiday party Dec. 18 that many will remember for years to come. More than 1,000 tickets were sold in support of the fun, and there was plenty of fun to be had for all ages. The holiday party enticed children with moon bouncing, face painting, horseback riding, and even a snow cone maker. Wing members and their families also enjoyed the food which included chicken wings, fresh sandwiches, and shrimp cocktail.

The highlights of the festivities included a KC-135 static display and a visit from Santa who listened to last minute gift requests. According to Master Sgt. Jennifer Hutcherson of the 459th Family Support Office, the sponsors and wing member coordinators helped make the party a true success. "Our sponsors included: First Sergeants Association, 756th Association, Lt. Col. Tierny, Lowes, United Horsemen's Association, DJ William Russell, Hops and Pops Party Rental, Bob Hall Budweiser, Hooters Waldorf Restaurant, and Mr. Sperrey, director of the Andrews Air Force Base Commissary," Hutcherson said.

Wing coordinators included: Senior Master Sgt. Gary Mauger and his gang for their hangar support, Master Sgts. Will Serrano and Matt Brown, my food runners; Master Sgt. Carol Prescott for door guard duty; Tech. Sgt. Charlene Lowe and Staff Sgt. Lanise Robinson for their vocal performance; Tech. Sgt. David Wesley for coordination of the pony rides; Tech. Sgt. George Bates for table and chair retrieval and set up; the chaplain's staff for food and beverage service; the Reserve Retirees Affairs Office and 69th APS for set up; Col. and Mrs. Robert Maddox for the donation of the handmade Santa suit as well as acting the part; and many more who helped in other ways! Thank you.



# Member embraces new home, cherishes liberty

By Capt. Nikki Credic  
Wing Public Affairs

“Life without the breath of liberty is no life.” Those were the words that inspired Senior Airman Papa Faal in his quest to fulfill a childhood dream—to become a U.S. citizen.

From The Gambia, one of the smallest countries in the western part of Africa, the 459th Military Personnel Flight relocations specialist explained that it was a privilege becoming a U.S. citizen.

“Even though my country enjoys a longstanding stability, its economic progress has not been enough to lend us deserving opportunities,” Faal said.

He explained there were a number of reasons why he chose to become a U.S. citizen.

“Number one, I wanted to be a part of a nation that sees everyone as equal, and fights to bring about the ideals of democracy around the world to those who need it,” Faal said. “Number two, I find in this country opportunities that I cannot find anywhere in the world. And number three, I have the opportunity to serve in the greatest military in the world.”

Like many others, Faal initially viewed military service as an opportunity to further his education, but he soon developed a passion for what he was doing and the mission he supported. Because of his newfound desire to cultivate his military career and provide support to an organization he sincerely believes in, he saw becoming a citizen as a plus.

“Being a citizen gives me the ability to contribute fully to my unit and to the force,” Faal said, “and it propels my career to the

fullest. After taking the oath of citizenship on December 6, 2005, Faal explained that a new feeling of “inclusiveness” lives within him now.

“The basic foundation of democracy is inclusiveness,” he said. “I now feel included in the democratic process and feel that my voice counts. I did not enjoy that liberty before.” His quest to become a citizen came with patience though. “The normal process of becoming a citizen involves first becoming a permanent resident and holding that residency for five years,” Faal explained. “After the fifth year, an application for naturalization can be submitted. The process itself takes about nine to 18 months after submitting an application.”

But Faal encourages any military member with aspirations to become a U.S. citizen to just do it. “My advice would be to go ahead and apply to become a citizen, and don’t waste time,” he said. “In the military, being a citizen opens a lot of doors for advancement. For whatever reason that one may have for being in the military, becoming a citizen will only propel those reasons forward.”

Faal is already opening the door on furthering his education and intends on advancing his military career as well. “I am currently a network manager in an IT department, and I am pursuing my masters in technology management with the intentions to progress to become a CIO [chief information officer],” he explained. “In the military, I will be putting a package together to become a commissioned officer, and hope to progress through the ranks in the years to come.”

Faal admits that The Gambia will always hold a special place in his heart, but becoming a U.S. citizen has offered him an enormous opportunity for a “better life, self progress and self-development.”

“My country will always be a part of me, and everything that goes on over there will be of my concern, but as a person of foreign descent [in the U.S.], I know the value of liberty because I have, and know people who have lived in both worlds,” he said. “We in the U.S. must cherish what we have here and never take it for granted.

“No constitution in this world gives more to its people like that of the U.S. That is why we must defend it at all costs. I am proud to be an American, and most of all, I am honored to be a member of the United States Air Force.”



**Senior Airman Papa Faal, a 459th Military Personnel Flight relocations specialist, became a U.S. citizen on December 6, 2005. He is originally from The Gambia, a small West African country covering an area of no more than 4,400 square miles. (Photo by Capt. Nikki Credic).**



**MXG:** Would like to share a trick found on the RCPHA. Don't hit print after your transaction. Hit print preview first then hit print.

**ARW/CCE:** Capt Vines is involved in the new civilian awards program.

**OSF:** Lt. Col. Patnode will be the new unit commander.

**Recruiting:** Currently, reservists are 130% manned. There is more accession in the Air Force than the rest of DoD.

**OSF:** Since the AEF 7 is not until the August and September 2007 timeframe; it frees up June.

**756 ARS:** The unit had a good ASEV visit.

**SFS:** A1C Ashley Raley received Honor Graduate from Security Forces technical school.

**MXS:** Hangar 11 has a new efficient gas heating system and it is very "toasty" in the hangar now. Also, TSgt's David Jenkins and Chris Crider retired recently with a total of 53 years of service in the Air Force.

**Chaplain:**

**AMDS:** Training is being done with emphasis on physicals. They have been conducting self-aid buddy care monitors training.

**FM:** The finance office is trying to improve customer service. It's getting better, but still needs work. There is a new policy in the pay office; whatever comes in today, will come out today.

# AMXS: Kudos to AMDS and Master Sgt. Faust who helped AMXS with an LOD.

CF: The comm flight is open any time for any communication issues or problems.

CP: Maj. Kimberly Williams had a baby boy.

**Senior Master Sgt. Howard Lee, 459 legal office, won a \$1,000 scholarship from the Richmond Paralegal Association, Richmond, Va.**

MOF: Mr. Myles Day is doing much better, please pray for his full recovery. He now lives in Knoxville, Tenn.

**459 LRF: The unit is manned 130 percent in the supply section; first-ever in the history of the unit.**

**CES: Readiness Day went very well**

**SVF: SrA Barrett Hurt is back from deployment and starting in January, E-6's and below will double up to save with lodging funds. No more late call-ins will be accepted. Reservations can be made through September 2006. Lodging is not a right, it's a privilege.**

MSF: Master Sgt. Selda Murphy is the honored recipient of the 459th Mission Support Flight first sergeant's award. Sergeant Murphy is deserving of the award by giving of herself above and beyond the call of her appointed duties.

**A new chaplain, Lt. Kelvin Francis is in training.**

MXS: This is Master Sgt. Curry's last month as the President of the First Sergeants Council, but he will be replaced by someone good.

**AES: Did very well on their ASEV.**



# Services mission stands out

Story by Staff Sgt. Natasha Suber  
Wing Public Affairs

Every now and then, Reserve units are lucky enough to snag one of those few select Airmen whose dedication to service and the mission stands apart from the rest. You know the type, first to come and last to leave; masters of multiple trades and skills; seasoned and prepared for world deployments; and willingly ready to serve no matter how big or small the task, with or without recognition.

Usually, ones as talented as these easily find homes within the special operations community or the halls of the Pentagon. However, the 459th Air Refueling Wing has a flight full of these select, few and dedi-

cated Airmen serving in none other than the Services Flight.

Food, lodging, and fitness, how hard can that be? Simple for those who only witness the ease and professional manner in which this flight executes its duties. Who knew that Airmen within the Services career field have interchangeable skills in the varied functional areas of this Air Force Specialty Code? For example, the food service airman may not only be a master of the in's and out's of the dining facility, but is just as competent and knowledgeable supporting the other two teams as a fit-to-fight facilitator or lodging coordinator.

Whereas, most of us specialize and train in an AFSC with many related functions and duties, Services Airmen train in varied function areas and usually perform and master these multiple areas early in their careers.

Who knew that the primary function of this flight is neither food, lodging, nor fit-to-fight, but rather Port Mortuary services? Yes, that is correct, the same port mortuary services in which service members are expected to identify, prepare burial uniforms, dress and wrap, casket, and maintain the dignity of military casualties. Every year, between the months of April and June, if called upon, the 459 ARW Services Flight reports to Dover AFB, Del., for the difficult, highly sensitive, yet honorable duty of tending to this nation's fallen Airmen, Seamen, Marines and Soldiers as soon as they return to U.S. soil. "This is a job when you are giving back to the families," says Tech. Sgt. Narda Santana-Gibbs as she recalls a U.S.S. Cole victim whom she identified as a 21-year-old as she searched his remains.

Leadership within the Services Flight attests to the capability and unique nature of

this squadron. "We meet the needs that most are unaware that they have until they are deployed," states Services Flight Commander Maj. Steve Richards as he notes many functions of the Services Flight when deployed or at home. Translated into laymen's terms, when not deployed to various parts of the world, the Services Flight is divided into three small, but dynamic teams, food, fit-to-fight, and lodging.

Under the direction of the soft spoken and



**Senior Airman Shellise Epps, services specialist, keeps track of the stopwatch while 459th members do their fit to fight sit-up test. (Photo by Master Sgt. Shayne Sewell).**



**(Left) Master Sgt. Leaudry Walker, supervisor, demonstrates how to use the automated lodging reservation system (Photo by Master Sgt. Shayne Sewell).**

highly efficient sergeant Santana-Gibbs and the six-member food services team supports two dining facilities, Liberty Hall and Freedom Hall. Liberty is the Reserve facility used by the 459 ARW on UTA weekends, while Freedom is the active duty facility. To accomplish this feat, the team is split into two smaller teams and rotated between each facility every 12 months. Each UTA, members on both teams prepare the breakfast and lunch meals of the day. While civilians are on hand to assist with food preparation and service, the bulk of the work rests on the food services team. Whether it is serving, cus-



# from the rest

tomter service, stocking food items on-line, backline food preparation for the next meal, or grill-to-order, everyone is in action from arrival to sign-out.

Led by the outspoken and high-speed Tech. Sgt. Timothy Boykin, the five-member fit-to-fight services team arrives each UTA at 5 a.m. to run the East Fitness Center from 6 a.m. - 2 p.m. While many may dread taking the fit-to-fight test, this team's coordination of all its related logistics from marking routes,

trainers who are qualified to provide fitness programs, diets, and utilize all of the gym equipment within the fitness center.

Last but definitely not least, the face of the four-member lodging services team is that of the ever pleasant and smiling Master Sgt. Leaudry Walker. Recently, this team assumed all of the functions related to lodging and is no longer reliant upon the Gateway Inn. Fully self-sufficient, the lodging services team now makes all of the reservations for the 459 ARW, maintains the reservation system, coordinates hotel arrangements with local hotels, and handles all cancellations.

Since assuming all of the lodging responsibilities from the Gateway Inn, this team has already begun planning improvements for the lodging system to make it more efficient and commuter friendly. Saying so, Sergeant Walker and his reserved but equally competent coworker, Mr. Robert Kirschner stressed the importance of meeting cutting off dates. While they hate to be the bad guys, major logistics are performed to ensure that every unit commuter that needs lodging has lodging.

What to expect from a flight that has already demonstrated a tireless work ethic that has been acknowledged and requested for in deployments to Alaska, Virginia Beach, Germany, Italy, Hawaii, and Japan? According to the services commander and supporting leadership, the best is yet to come. Already the fit-to-fight services team is planning upcoming tournaments and activities

such as a 3-on-3 basket ball tournament where 459 ARW squadrons can compete, boost morale and healthy living.

The lodging services team has set up a reservation system in which commuters can set up reservations during the UTA and follow up within two weeks.

While sometimes overlooked by their peers and counterparts in the wing, the 459 ARW Services Flight has maintained a model of service that should be replicated throughout the wing. Not because of their service in support of missions for the U.S.S. Cole attack, Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Not because of the awards and recognition received for exceptional service. Instead, for the true focus on teamwork that has developed so many of those few select Airmen whose dedication to service and the mission stands apart from the rest.



**Superintendent, 459 SVS, shows Mr. Robert Kirschner how to make lodging reservations in the automated system. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Natasha Suber).**

providing water, advising unit monitors, and monitoring test takers for safety (in the event they must use their expertise in CPR and the automated external defibrillator), is fully appreciated. Keeping in step with the active duty component fit-to-fight programs, this team maintains and willingly provides the pertinent information for the Healthy Living Workshops and even sponsored a Health Fair this past June. Need circuit training events such as yoga, kickboxing, karate, and personal fitness programs? Our fit-to-fight services team can provide it. Every UTA, members of the 459<sup>th</sup> ARW have access to



**Senior Airman Latoya Harper, services specialist, prepares food before the lunchtime rush in the Liberty Hall dining facility. (Photo by Master Sgt. Shayne Sewell).**

# Air Force releases new mission statement

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The realities of the world have changed dramatically since the creation of the Air Force in 1947 and continue to change almost daily.

With these changes in mind, Air Force leaders released a new mission statement Dec. 7, 2005, that defines the current and future direction of the Air Force.

"Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting and filled with a wide range of challenges," Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley wrote in a joint letter to Airmen. "Our mission is our guiding compass, and now more than ever we need it to be clear and precise."

The mission statement defines the "where and what" the Air Force accomplishes on a daily basis.

The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests — to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.

The statement includes two new concepts, "sovereign options" and "cyberspace," which the secretary and chief defined.

They said having sovereign options is the essence of being a superpower.

"Our task is to provide the president, the combatant commanders, and our nation with an array of options ... options that are not

tance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world."

The term cyberspace includes network security, data transmission and the sharing of information.

"We have quite a few of our Airmen dedicated to cyberspace ... from security awareness, making sure the networks can't be penetrated, as well as figuring out countermeasures," Secretary Wynne said. "The Air Force is a natural leader in the cyber world and we thought it would be best to recognize that talent."

Adversaries of the United States will use any method or venue necessary to contest America, and it is an Airman's calling to dominate air, space and cyberspace, the leaders said.

"If we can decisively and consistently control these commons, then we will deter countless conflicts," they said. "If our enemies underestimate our resolve, then we will fly, fight, and destroy them."

Using past air power pioneers as examples of understanding the mission, they said, "The Air Force's mission statement has evolved over time, but it does not change the nature of who we are or what we do." (Courtesy Air Force Print News)



limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy's defenses," they said. "With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assis-

## ART Spotlight

**Job Title:**  
**Services Specialist**

**Duties:** To plan, organize and manage the day-to-day activities of the Services function.

**Length of employment with the 459th ARW:** One year, four months

**Personal Hobbies:**  
I enjoy hiking, a variety of sports, going to the movies and skating.



**Master Sgt. Crystal Johnson**

**If you wrote an autobiography what would the title be?**

**If I wrote an autobiography the title would be "Christ Freed Me From the Enemy In Me"**

# Space heater safety tips are hot topics

If you plan to use space heaters to help heat your home or office this winter, use extreme caution.

According to the National Fire Protection Association supplemental heating equipment, such as electrical and kerosene heaters, are the leading cause of home fires during the months of December, January and February and trails only cooking equipment as the leading cause of home fires year-round. The following safety tips and precautions when using space heaters:

\*\*\*\*\*

\*Space heaters have one function - to provide supplemental heat. Don't use them to warm bedding, cook food, thaw pipes or dry clothing. Misusing space heaters can put you, your family and co-workers at risk of fire or burn injuries.

\*Select heating equipment that has the UL mark. The UL mark on a product means that UL technical staff members have tested representative samples of the product for foreseeable safety hazards.

\*Remember that three foot safety zone. Keep things that burn at least three feet away from space heaters to include computers.

\*Turn off space heaters when you are not in the room.

\*Supervise children and pets at all times when space heaters are in use. Even the slightest contact with a heating coil or element can cause a severe burn.

\*If you have an electric space heater, check for frayed insulation, broken wires or overheating. Have all problems repaired by a professional technician before operating.

\*When buying space heaters, look for devices with automatic shut-off features and

heating element guards.

\*If you have a liquid-fueled space heater, use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. Never use gasoline or any other substitute fuel. The wrong fuel could burn hotter than the equipment's design limits and cause a serious fire.

\*When refueling, turn off the heater and let it cool down completely before adding fuel. Wipe up any spills promptly.

\*If you're considering buying a kerosene heater, check with your local fire department to find out if it is legal in your community.

\*Avoid using extension cords with space heaters. If you must use one, make sure you choose an extension cord of the right wire gauge size and type for your heaters.

\*Keep the air heater's power supply cord away from high-traffic areas. You don't want people walking on or tripping over the cord.

## Change of Command



**Maj. Mark Mueller** assumes command of the 459th Civil Engineering Squadron in a ceremony, Dec. 17. Mueller was previously in the IMA program before joining the 459th. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Natasha Suber).



**Lt. Col. Scott Patnode** takes the reigns as the new commander of the 459th Operations Support Flight during a change of command ceremony, Dec. 17. Patnode replaces Col. Bruce Turner. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Natasha Suber).





## Letter to Airmen

Michael W. Wynne  
Secretary of the Air Force

6 Dec 03

### Persistent Situation Awareness in Resource Management

It is truly an honor to serve with you as the Secretary of the Air Force. One of my goals from the first letter to you was to emphasize persistent situation awareness—that is, constant examination of our processes in order to recognize better ways of accomplishing the mission. This note is a part of that process. After 15 years of continuous engagement, our Air Force finds itself in an operating environment that requires us to examine all situation areas, from platforms to personnel, for stresses, inefficiencies, and strains that we must identify and correct through persistent situation awareness.

General Moseley laid out a clear set of priorities: winning the war, recapitalizing our Air Force, and providing our Airmen with the skills and training they need to maximize their effectiveness. Advancing those priorities will require each of us to become better resource managers in an increasingly tight fiscal environment. This long war has taken a toll on our equipment. We are attacking this from two directions: first by expanding the use of LEAN concepts beyond the depot and maintenance operations into the flightline and the office, and second by providing tools to commanders and supervisors to monitor and control resources across the Air Force, whether at a Squadron, Wing, or MAJCOM level.

In examining our personnel requirements, our findings mirror what is also occurring in corporations all across America. Specifically, the productivity of our people and the increased capability of our systems have to be balanced against the inherent cost. For example, some career fields are stressed, while others are over-strength. We also continue to employ redundant services when we actually have the same capability within our organic strengths. These are the types of inequalities that we must correct. I want to assure that all Airmen—as well as our partners in industry—are performing duties that are relevant and necessary, so that an Air Force officer and the work of our industrial partners is both rewarding and challenging. We must analyze all of our operations to look for opportunities to eliminate waste in terms of time and materials, while increasing productivity and continuing to challenge ourselves. We need this focus to ensure we allocate our resources in the most efficient manner and thereby maximize the resources available for the critical task of recapitalization.

Change is never easy. Those actions will challenge you over the next few years, and I need all Airmen to contribute in order to ensure success. We remain committed to the total force and will be working through the specific details of the changes to come as the budget and the Quadrennial Defense Review are completed. As these emerge, we will continue to communicate with you as you strive for persistent situation awareness. We are reminded daily of your commitment to our first priority—winning the war. I am honored to serve with you and seek your continued dedication.

*Michael W. Wynne*  
Michael W. Wynne

## Congratulations Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Allen

“As for my promotion, the path started there at the 459th (was AW when I was there, now ARW). The experiences I enjoyed with the 459th and 756th will always stay with me. Thanks to the men and women of the 459th, I have many great Air Force Reserve memories. It was the 459th and 756th who helped me transition from a “crew dog” pilot through the learning and growth experiences as a commander. I am indebted to the men and women of the 459th and I feel my promotion reflects the great support I enjoyed from their camaraderie and professionalism. Thanks so much to everyone.”



## Reservist medical-dental records easier to get

**DENVER (AFP)** — The Air Reserve Personnel Center will move the medical and dental records of some reservists to the active-duty base where they serve as part of a test to streamline operations.

The process, initiated two years ago, will help reduce duplicate copies of the records. This will decrease work and increase efficiency, officials said. “This is a win-win situation,” said Staff Sgt. Mike Melanson, of the center’s health services directorate. “The member has medical records at the military treatment facility to which they are assigned and (personnel officials) will have a complete medical history.”

The change will help individual mobilization augmentees. Historically, those individual’s records have been maintained at the personnel center. With no medical or dental information available at base health care facilities, just getting an annual Reserve Component Periodic Health Assessment was difficult, the sergeant said.



## Air Force declares F-22A operational

### LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. -

The Air Force’s most advanced weapon system is ready for combat.

In reaching initial operational capability, the F-22A Raptor has

been certified ready for employment.

Declaring the transformational fighter IOC means the Raptor’s proven capabilities are now available for use in combat around the globe and are supported by a properly trained and equipped force. It also means the aircraft is qualified to perform homeland defense missions when required. In the words of Gen. Ronald E. Keys, Air Combat Command commander, “If we go to war tomorrow, the Raptor will go with us.”

“F-22A IOC means our warfighters now have an unprecedented lethal mix of air-to-air and air-to-ground capabilities at their disposal,” General Keys said. “The Raptor’s cutting-edge technology brings us continued joint air dominance despite advancing enemy threats.” Reaching the IOC milestone culminates a collaborative effort between Air Force organizations and the service’s industry partners over the past 25 years. The road to IOC included the F-22A System Program Office turning Air Force requirements into a successful acquisition program; developmental flight test and evaluation, simulation and ground testing at Edwards AFB, Calif., and Eglin AFB, Fla.; engine testing at Arnold AFB, Tenn.; missile testing at Holloman AFB, N.M., and over the Pacific Test Range; tactics development at Nellis AFB, Nev.; pilot and maintenance training at Tyndall AFB, Fla.; and deployability here.

“The F-22A fulfills a long quest to bring fifth-generation capabilities of stealth, supercruise and precision to the warfighter today and 30 years from today,” General Keys said. “Now that we have met our first promised milestone of a fully capable, multi-mission platform ready for combat, we are already focused on furthering our integrated tactics development, refining our deployability, and growing and training our force. To add to what we learned on our successful first operational deployment to the Utah Test and Training Range to drop, fly against double-digit (surface-to-air missiles) at Nellis, and work with F-16 FAC-As, we will conduct our first routine peacetime exercise deployment by taking 12 Raptors to Alaska in June for Northern Edge.” Designed to ensure America’s air dominance for years to come, the F-22A will ensure U.S. joint forces’ freedom from attack and freedom to attack, even as adversaries continue to advance their weapons and technologies.

“As I told Gen. Moseley, he and I have spent our lifetime executing, instructing, and providing air dominance for the joint force. Lamentably, we have never been privileged to hold a weapon like this in our hands. After reviewing our test results, seeing our operational deployment performance, and talking to the pilots that will go to war with it, I am confident that the F-22A joins the combat force at a far more mature and capable level than any of our previous great aircraft, and will take its rightful place in a long line of U.S. Air Force legends of the air,” General Keys said.



## MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Maj. Patricia Sylvestro  
 Chief Master Sgt. Robert Harrison  
 Senior Master Sgt. Peter Barretta  
 Senior Master Sgt. David Young  
 Master Sgt. Glenn Baird  
 Master Sgt. William Clark  
 Master Sgt. Rodney Gantt  
 Master Sgt. Dennis Krause  
 Master Sgt. Lanier McCaskill  
 Master Sgt. John Piety  
 Tech. Sgt. Donald Marshall  
 Tech. Sgt. John Oden  
 Tech. Sgt. Quentin Trayham



## AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

Lt. Col. Ronald Pauldine  
 Master Sgt. Lejarey Moten  
 Tech. Sgt. Michael Cesario  
 Tech. Sgt. Brian Stanforth  
 Tech. Sgt. Mark Winstead  
 Staff Sgt. Shawn O'Rourke  
 Staff Sgt. Jennifer Richburg  
 Senior Airman Edward Lindsey



## AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Tech. Sgt. Virgil Marshall

## NEWCOMERS

Master Sgt. Sheila Jordan	459 AMDS
Tech. Sgt. Katherine Hubbard	459 MXS
Tech. Sgt. Grover McSwain	459 MXS
Tech. Sgt. Danny Mya	459 CES
Staff Sgt. Fredney Arvelo	459 AMXS
Staff Sgt. Dalton Baker	459 SFS
Staff Sgt. Aleas Hammett	459 MOF
Staff Sgt. James Hawkins Jr.	459 LRF
Staff Sgt. Cari Inkenbrandt	459 MOF
Staff Sgt. Kevin Marks	69 APS
Staff Sgt. Erik Quam	459 AMXS
Staff Sgt. Sara Smith	459 SFS
Senior Airman Jacob Falk	459 MXS
Senior Airman Gregory Livergood	459 SFS
Senior Airman LaTitia Lundy	459 LRF
Senior Airman Daniel Paugh	459 SFS
Senior Airman Mark Stanton	459 SFS
Airman First Class Ashley Bailey	459 SFS
Airman First Class Lora Hudson	459 SFS
Airman Nicholas Seemiller	459 ASTS

## RETIREEES

Capt. Ricky Cue  
 Chief Master Sgt. Patricia Bjorling  
 Senior Master Sgt. Geraldine Bullock  
 Master Sgt. Melodia Phillips  
 Master Sgt. Paul Redmond  
 Master Sgt. Thomas St. Clair

## Lodging Information

This is a friendly reminder from the 459th Services Flight to our commuters to make your January UTA lodging reservations no later than Jan. 12.

Starting in January, we will be working directly with the hotels and have VERY FEW rooms available after the reservation deadline. Therefore, if you fail to make a reservation, there is no option to request a 40A to get a room. If you have an emergency situation after the reservation deadline, please contact 459th Services directly at (240) 857-2775.

Starting with the January UTA, units will be assigned to one hotel for the next year. We will be sending an "Andrews All" e-mail out in January that will have the hotel assignments for each unit. The hotel assignment will not change for the rest of the fiscal year, therefore, you will know the hotel in which in you will be staying through the September UTA.

One other change to the reservation process includes "straddle stays." Starting with the January UTA, if you are planning to be in active duty status in conjunction with the UTA, i.e., on duty either previous to, or directly after the UTA, please make that reservation through the 459 Services reservation system rather than the 89th, which was how it used to be done. This will ensure that we keep you in the same hotel for the duration of your stay.

Lastly, please remember that the 459 Services lodging system is for the PRIMARY UTA/straddle stays ONLY. If you are drilling on an alternate weekend, rescheduled, or pulling any active duty, you must contact the 89th Lodging Office for your reservation at 301-981-4614.

If you have any problems with the system or you want to check your reservation, please contact the 459 SVF at 240-857-2775 before the deadline so we can assist you.

The number to the 459 ARW lodging system is: 1-866-379-6323 or 240-857-1111/0738

## Maternity profiles

Pregnant reservists must bring proof of pregnancy, such as a note from their doctor, to the 459th Aerospace Medical Squadron, Bldg. 3757, to begin a pregnancy profile. During Unit Training Assemblies, these members should also visit 459th AMDS Public Health to be placed on the fetal protection program. For more information, call 459th AMDS at (240) 857-3909.

## Vacancy in Family Support Center

The Family Support Center is looking for a highly motivated member to join their team.

\*TR position (SSgt or above)

\*Packages due Jan UTA

\*Last 3 EPRs

\*Resumes (military and civilian) if available

\*Current CC recommendation

Interviews held Sunday, Feb UTA. Excellent communication and customer service skills. Please contact Master Sgt. Jennifer Hutcherson Rm 130 or (240) 857-7048 if interested.

## Change of Address

When your address changes, you have to update it in at least four places. The first is your unit for your recall roster. The others you can do at your computer. To update your address in DEERS without going to the military personnel flight, go to <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/address/index.jsp>. To update your address in MILPDS, go to [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/vs/](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/vs/). To update your address with military pay without going to the pay office, go to <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>.

## Sexual Assault Hotline

A toll-free telephone number has been established for those who want to contact the Department of Defense Task Force on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault. The number, (800) 497-6261, is staffed 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday. Air Force leaders encourage all Airmen to be knowledgeable about sexual assault risks, consequences and prevention. Women in their late adolescence and early adult years, particularly those drinking alcohol, are most at risk. Many are on their own for the first time in their lives and do not have safety nets such as parents or guardians. Sexual assault includes rape, physical assault, indecent assault and attempt to commit these crimes.

## E-mail Access

To check email while you're away from the office, you need to follow these steps: go to <https://mail.amc.af.mil>. Click "Yes" when the security alert appears. At the next prompt, you must type "amc-2k\" before entering the rest of your username. For example, type "amc-2k\john.doe." Type your password, hit "OK" and you're in.

## Travel Web sites:

The Tours Program, Inc:  
[www.thetoursprogram.com](http://www.thetoursprogram.com)

Historic Tours of America:  
[www.historictours.com](http://www.historictours.com)

Gettysburg Convention and Visitors  
Bureau:  
[www.gettysburgcvb.org](http://www.gettysburgcvb.org)

Department of Parks and Recreation  
[www.pgpc.org](http://www.pgpc.org)

Vacation Outlet  
[www.vacationoutlet.com](http://www.vacationoutlet.com)

Family Travel  
[www.familytravel.com](http://www.familytravel.com)

## PAY DAYS

Pay days will no longer be published in The Boomer.  
Call the finance office  
for pay questions at  
(240) 857-0314/0315.

## Military Pay Hours of Operation

Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
UTA Sat., 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Closed UTA Sun.  
Office: (240) 857-0314/0315  
Easy Pay Access: 1-800-755-7413

## FY 2006 UTA SCHEDULE

Jan. 28-29, Alt 7-8  
Feb. 25-26, Alt 11-12  
March 25-26, Alt 11-12  
April 29-30, Alt 8-9  
May 13-14, No Alt  
June 8-11 ORI Flyaway  
June 24-25, No Alt  
July 29-30, Alt 15-16  
Aug. 26-27, Alt 12-13  
Sep 23-24, Alt 9-10



## Trophy Winner



*Members from the 459th Maintenance Squadron and the 459th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron pose with the 2004 Clouse Trophy in front of a KC-135 aircraft. On the left holding the trophy is Lt. Col. David Post, 459 MXG commander and on the right is, Maj. Luis Nunez, 459 AMXS commander. This trophy was awarded on stage at Raincross at March ARB, Calif., and will remain perpetually at 4th Air Force, although the front nameplate will change. The 459th will get to keep a smaller lead crystal trophy for our display. (Courtesy photo).*

459TH AIR REFUELING WING  
AIR FORCE RESERVE  
3755 PATRICK AVENUE  
ANDREWS AFB MD 20762-4814  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

First Class Mail  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Temple Hills MD  
Permit No. 4004